

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 159

Concerning the identification of United States military personnel involved in United Nations and other multinational peacekeeping operations for the purposes of the Geneva Convention.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 1993

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. GILMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the identification of United States military personnel involved in United Nations and other multinational peacekeeping operations for the purposes of the Geneva Convention.

Whereas the United States has deployed United States Armed Forces personnel to serve in United Nations and other multilateral peacekeeping operations abroad, including Somalia, Haiti, and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia;

Whereas the United States is considering significantly expanding the deployment of United States military personnel as part of United Nations and other multilateral peacekeeping forces;

Whereas serious concern has been raised about the deployment of United States military personnel as part of multilateral peacekeeping forces, particularly when such forces are not under United States operational control, because of the reduced ability of the United States to protect the safety of such personnel, both in combat and if captured;

Whereas on October 3 and 4, 1993, the forces of Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed captured at least one American soldier serving in support of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia and publicly committed horrible atrocities against members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas it was reported that General Aideed planned to use American prisoners as human shields in direct violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War;

Whereas the Geneva Convention contains numerous protections for internationally recognized prisoners of war, including the right to prosecute those violating such protections; and

Whereas the Department of State and the United Nations have declared that the protections of the Geneva Convention relevant to prisoners of war do not apply in the case of American soldiers held prisoner in Somalia: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That the President should ensure that any
- 3 member of the United States Armed Forces participating
- 4 in any United Nations or other multinational peacekeeping

1 operation shall have access to the full protection of the
2 Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners
3 of War of August 12, 1949, if taken captive and held
4 against his or her will by combatants or other parties to
5 a conflict.

